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Positive HIV Tests After COVID and COVID Shots + Social Stress Triggers Inflammation + More

The Defender's Weekly Science Digest delivers a roundup of the latest research on children's health, including studies on vaccines, drugs, chemicals, pesticides and lead exposure.

By Angelo DePalma, Ph.D.



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Dismissing stimulant-development issues with a hand wave

Prescription Stimulant Use During Pregnancy and Risk of Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Children; JAMA Psychiatry, Jan. 24, 2024.

U.S. researchers found a significant increase in [neurodevelopmental disorders](#) in children whose mothers took [prescription stimulants](#) during pregnancy — then made this result disappear by re-analyzing the data to eliminate “[confounding factors](#).”

The study compared the use of [amphetamines and similar drugs](#) or [methylphenidate](#) during late pregnancy with a diagnosis of [autism spectrum disorder](#) (ASD), [attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder](#) (ADHD) or a composite of neurodevelopmental disorders in the mothers' offspring. Both drugs are approved for treating [ASD](#) and [ADHD](#).

The researchers' raw data showed a two- to three-fold increase in unfavorable neurodevelopment outcomes among children of mothers who took the [drugs](#) — a result that makes sense based on earlier studies describing such use as an “[epidemic](#).”

But after controlling for confounding factors the authors concluded that stimulants were “not likely to meaningfully increase the risk of childhood neurodevelopmental disorders.”

Confounding factors included maternal demographics, maternal [ADHD](#), depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder (and their severity), lifestyle factors, other medications during pregnancy and geographic area of residence — none of which are unusual among women of childbearing age.

Social stress linked to inflammation

Associations between Social Adversity and Biomarkers of Inflammation, Stress, and Aging in Children; Pediatric Research, Jan. 17, 2024.

The cumulative burden of [social adversity](#)-related risk factors such as low income and adverse childhood experiences have been linked to poor health outcomes during childhood and adulthood, but the reasons were poorly understood.

A joint U.S.-Canadian research team proposed that the underlying cause is an uptick in inflammation as measured by [inflammatory cytokines](#) — molecules made by the body to fight illness and stress, but which can also cause disease.

Researchers surveyed families of 537 children ages 0-17 for adverse social experiences and created an overall score for each subject. They then measured cytokines from saliva samples, and levels of other stress-indicating chemicals from the subjects' hair.

They found that cumulative social adversity was associated with higher levels of inflammation-causing cytokines in saliva, but reported no connection between adversity and [cortisol levels](#) from hair. Cortisol is a breakdown product of cortisone and an independent indicator of stress.

Researchers also looked for a connection between inflammation and disruption of the [neuroendocrine system](#) and “[epigenetic aging](#)” — biological processes indicative of aging but without the actual aging part — but found none.

A study published two weeks earlier attributed the behavioral problems in children experiencing adversity to abnormally accelerated development, which we will cover in next week's Science Digest.

Energy drinks linked to delinquent, sensation-seeking behaviors

Consumption of energy drinks by children and young people: a systematic review examining evidence of physical effects and consumer attitudes; Public Health, Jan. 15, 2024.

U.K. researchers reported a connection between energy drink consumption and “numerous adverse physical and [mental health](#) outcomes,” including poor sleep duration and quality, low academic performance, suicide risk, psychological distress, [ADHD symptoms](#), depressive and panic behaviors, allergic diseases, insulin resistance and dental issues — to name just a few.

The authors based their conclusions on a review of 57 studies. Investigators also reported “a strong positive association between energy drinks and other risky behavior like smoking and alcohol use (including binge drinking).”

Despite warnings, more than 30% of teenagers consume [energy drinks](#) and worldwide sales are around \$53 billion. Some energy drinks contain vitamins and supplements that may be beneficial but all provide large doses of caffeine and sugar (or [artificial sweeteners](#)), various stimulants plus artificial flavors and colors.

The study authors urged policy changes to limit children's exposure to energy drinks.

Positive HIV tests post-COVID, post-vaccination

SARS-CoV-2 Infection and COVID-19 Vaccination Associated with False Positive HIV Tests; Courageous Discourse Substack, Dec. 24, 2023.

Dr. Peter McCullough, a leading proponent of medical freedom, reported late last year that people who have recovered from [COVID-19](#) have a noticeable increase in false positive tests for [HIV](#), which causes AIDS. A false positive HIV test suggests the virus is there when it really isn't.

A similar phenomenon was noted in an August 2023 paper reporting that individuals with false positive HIV tests had the highest number of [COVID-19](#) positive tests.

A false positive [HIV diagnosis](#) has serious psychosocial effects on individuals and may result in costly, unnecessary lifelong treatment. McCullough cited a [Greek study](#) reporting a suicide attempt by a COVID-19-vaccinated lab technician who erroneously tested positive for HIV.

To reduce the number of false positive HIV tests the [World Health Organization](#) recommends moving from older test technologies to more accurate ones, and replacing the widely-used two-test diagnosis with a [three-test protocol](#).

Diabetes, weight loss drugs linked to birth defects

Safety of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and Other Second-Line Antidiabetics in Early Pregnancy; JAMA Internal Medicine, Dec. 11, 2023.

An international study group reported that Type 2 diabetes (T2D) and T2D drugs increase the risk of birth defects. Compared with the incidence of major birth defects among all pregnant women one T2D drug class, glucagon-like peptide 1 ([GLP-1](#)) [receptor agonists](#), or GLP-1 inhibitors, more than doubled the risk and another, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 ([SGLT2](#)) [inhibitors](#), increased it by 87%.

For congenital heart defects the increases were 246% for GLP-1 agonists and nearly 300% for SGLT2 inhibitors. GLP-1 [drugs](#) work by [regulating appetite and food intake](#) and preventing food from leaving the stomach, which gives the patient a feeling of fullness. [SGLT2 drugs](#) [lower blood sugar](#) (and weight) by causing patients to eliminate sugar through the urine.

While these products are about as risky as other T2D drugs like insulin and metformin, the authors noted that GLP-1 agonists are now approved for [weight loss](#) and some SGLT2 inhibitors may be prescribed for obesity control as well.

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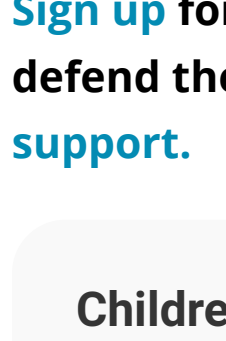
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Angelo DePalma, Ph.D., is a science reporter/editor for The Defender.

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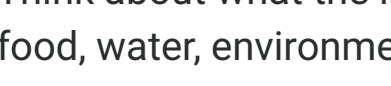
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holisticpoet

8 days ago

All I can take out of this article is to refrain from using any products that come from the pharmaceutical industry. Anyone who pays attention to the side effects that are stated during an ad, should know this already.

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J

Jennifo

7 days ago

Think about what the letters stand for. Human Immuno Virus. That's anything that affects immunity. ANY harmful food, water, environmental toxin that hurts us.

Auto Immune Deficiency Syndrome...we ALL have immunity inflammation at any given point of our lives when you have arthritis, colitis, Chrohns, cancer, shingles, warts, cold sores, acne, leaky gut...get it???

I personally believe it's the fear & garbage of yet another lie from Fauci (look back at the work he did with this in the 80s) of a 'disease' that may not exist. Probably targeting anyone who was (is) engaged in that lifestyle because the far left are the racist, homophobes they accuse the right of being.

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John Hanek

8 days ago

The mRNA jab destroys the immune system, causing HIV. It takes years for HIV to kill. Very tricky. The scary part is that 65% of all humans on Earth have been inoculated with it.

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michiganwoman

7 days ago

Remember the weird explosion of pharmaceutical adds on tv in 2019-2020 about HIV? It was out of nowhere and also ill-timed...ahead of their plans. But definitely their plan as we would see.

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Iethiethingon

7 days ago

I watched Lou Montagnier, the French Nobel Prize winning scientist who is now dead, declare on a talk show randomly, that the Sars-Cov-2 sequence he saw had HIV spliced right into the middle of it!

I remember this from way early on in 2020. The talk show host, not recalling what show now, was totally shocked at his declaration.

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Gary Brown

7 days ago

Jan 24, 2024 Hang on! Bill Gates just said WHAT about vaccines? Are you kidding

Bill Gates and The British Medical Journal want "behavior interventions" to reduce vaccine hesitancy. They don't promise better research or honest answers to earnest questions about vaccines. No, they want to modify OUR behavior so that we don't ask questions. But...we still have questions.

Like everybody else, i have been inundated with the pro Covid shot propaganda. I just ignore it. I see it for the fraud that it is. Hair dressers in New Mexico were going to be trained to nudge their clients into taking the shot. No barber would get away with playing that game with me. I would tell him about the whistleblowing nurses, exposing the injuries they saw in hospital due to the Covid shots.

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Deborah Howard

7 days ago

It's all about de-population and the love of money.

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Deborah Howard

7 days ago

Covid was about AIDs and HIV to begin with. Then, to cause all types of medical issues to require people to spend more money on medicines and treatments.The mRNA reactivated dormant viruses within the body. It causes circulatory issues with blood clots too.

Big Pharma is satan disguised. Remember the serpent on the pole, the emblem of medical? A false god.

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QuentonQuale

7 days ago

There are many things that create false positives on HIV tests because the HIV tests are as fraudulent as Covid tests. A pregnancy can create a false positive which then leads doctors to give very toxic treatments to the newborn child. Instead of seeing alleged covid causing false positives in HIV tests, people should see that the tests themselves are completely useless.

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